

ST. LOUIS

# Conservation Connections

News and Events from the Missouri Department of Conservation • March 2014



## Celebrating Edgar Denison

*Author of Missouri Wildflowers*

**W**ith spring comes the urge to get outside, enjoy the fresh air, and maybe, plant a garden. A wildflower garden will give you hours of enjoyment. And, in case you did not know, Missouri is home to many beautiful native wildflowers that can be part of any garden.

A good book to get you started on identifying native wildflowers is Edgar Denison's *Missouri Wildflowers*, published by the Missouri Department of Conservation. First published in 1972 and now in its sixth edition, *Missouri Wildflowers* has become an essential reference for the local gardener.



Edgar Denison

Denison was introduced to the beauty of wildflowers as a youth while hiking in Switzerland. Many years later, while living in Kirkwood, Denison began to share his knowledge of wildflowers with friends and neighbors. In 1971, Denison appeared in the Department's office with photos

of flowers and offered to write a guide to Missouri wildflowers. The Commission approved the publication and gardeners have enjoyed the beauty and knowledge Denison so eagerly shared. Many of his pictures were taken at Emmenegger Nature Park in Kirkwood.

April will begin with an opening reception at Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center on Saturday, April 5, 6–8 p.m., where the work of Edgar Denison will be featured in the Powder Valley Hallway Exhibit. Look for more events at the nature center and other venues within the Kirkwood area honoring Edgar Denison during April and May.

By CATHERINE McGRANE,  
assistant nature center manager

---

## Partners for Native Landscaping Presents

### Lecture and Workshop featuring Doug Tallamy nationally acclaimed author of *Bringing Nature Home*

March 21 • Friday • 5:30–9 p.m.

**Lecture and Reception with Doug Tallamy**

March 22 • Saturday • 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

**Workshop for Homeowners featuring Doug Tallamy**

**Lecture and Workshop at  
Missouri Botanical Garden**

**4344 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63110**

Registration fees apply. Call 636-451-3512, ext. 6078 for information or register online at [www.stlouisaudubon.org/PNL](http://www.stlouisaudubon.org/PNL). Registration for the Friday evening lecture and Saturday workshop are separate.

Presented by the following Partners for Native Landscaping:

Missouri Department of Conservation • Metropolitan Sewer District • Missouri Botanical Garden and Shaw Nature Reserve • Wild Ones, St. Louis Chapter • St. Louis Audubon Society • Grow Native, Missouri Prairie Foundation



Native landscaping

# Jay Henges Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

1100 Antire Road, High Ridge, MO 63049 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/299](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/299)



From the east/St. Louis

I-44 west to Beaumont Antire Road, exit 269. Left over I-44 to Antire Road. Right on Antire. One hundred feet to entrance. Left into driveway.

From the west/Eureka

I-44 east to Beaumont Antire Road, exit 269. Follow exit lane around to top.

## **HOURS:**

September 1–April 30

Wednesday–Sunday: 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

May 1–August 31

Wednesday: 1–7:30 p.m.

Thursday–Sunday: 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **636-938-9548** or email [henges.range@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:henges.range@mdc.mo.gov) with your name and phone number to sign up for a program requiring registration. Up to two reservations are allowed per registration; groups should contact the range for more information. If you are unable to attend, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

## **Women's Beginning Handgun, Part 1 and 2**

March 6 • Thursday • 6–8 p.m.

March 8 • Saturday • 8–9:30 a.m.

*(Ages 16 and up)*

This two-part women's program will include handgun operation, shooting fundamentals, safety, maintenance, and safe storage. Training begins with a classroom session on Thursday evening, then a live-fire session on Saturday

morning. Although equipment and ammunition will be provided, you may bring your own handgun and ammunition to the Saturday morning live-fire session. Participants under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin February 6.)

## **Trigger Time – Handgun**

March 15 • Saturday • 8:30–9:30 a.m.

*(Ages 18 and up)*

Trigger Time is "hands-on" personal instruction designed to make you a better marksman. There is no classroom time, just expert one-on-one instruction by our highly qualified staff. Participants are required to provide their own handguns and ammunition, at least 100 rounds. This program is not appropriate for beginners. (Reservations begin February 15.)

## **Wild Turkey Hunting Clinic**

March 15 • Saturday • 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

*(Ages 6 and up)*

Missouri offers some of the best turkey hunting in the nation. This is your opportunity to learn more about this unique opportunity in your backyard. The four-hour clinic will cover biology and behavior, natural history, management, calls and calling, turkey hunting tactics, safety and ethics, and field care. Participants under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin February 15.)

## **Beginning Shotgun**

March 22 • Saturday • noon–4 p.m.

*(Ages 10 and up)*

Considering or just purchased a new shotgun? Just wanting to know more about shotgunning? This program is designed to encourage you take that first step in a hands-on introduction to safe firearm handling and orientation for a shotgun. The course includes both classroom and simple flying target

shooting. Participants under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult; however any youth attending must be able to shoulder and shoot a shotgun safely without assistance. (Reservations begin February 15.)

## **Shotgun Patterning for Turkey Hunting**

March 23 • Sunday • 4–6 p.m.

*(Ages 6 and up)*

The program is based on the scientific and reviewed information from the Cooperative North American Shotgunning Education Program. Learn how to save money and ensure you have the best equipment combination to take that Ole' Tom. Participants should bring their shotgun, chokes, and turkey ammunition. Participants under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin February 23.)

## **How to Safely Deep Fry that Spring Gobbler!**

March 29 • Saturday • 9 a.m.–noon

*(Ages 16 and up)*

You have that wild bird, now how can you turn it into the hit of any meal? We will take you through the preparation and safe steps to one of today's most popular ways to cook turkeys "deep-fried." (Reservations begin February 29.)

## **Youth .22 Rifle**

March 29 • Saturday • 8–9:30 a.m.

*(Ages 9–15)*

Interested young people who have no experience shooting .22 rifles are invited to learn safety and the proper techniques of shooting .22 caliber rimfire rifles in a controlled environment. Firearms, ammunition, and safety equipment is provided. Participants must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin February 28.)

# Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/270](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/270)

## Women's Basic Handgun

March 12 • Wednesday • 6–9 p.m.

March 13 • Thursday • 6–8 p.m.

(Ages 16 and up)

If you are a new shooter or want to learn more about the basics of handgun shooting, let our instructors introduce you to what it takes to be an accurate shot. Wednesday is the classroom portion located at the August A. Busch Conservation Area regional office classroom where you will learn safety, actions, stance, grip, aiming, and more. Thursday we will go to the range for live-fire action. All firearms and ammunition will be provided. (Reservations begin February 12.)



Northern bobwhite

## Youth and Women Quail Hunt

March 13 • Thursday • 6–9 p.m.

March 15 • Saturday • 8 a.m.–3 p.m.

(Youth ages 11–15 and Women)

Join our experts and learn about the bobwhite quail and what it takes to hunt these elusive birds. On Thursday we will have a clinic, located at the August A. Busch Conservation Area regional office classroom. Here you will learn about habitat, safety, clothing, firearms, chokes, and how to hunt these birds. Saturday we will head to the field at Wilnor Hunt Club, for an actual hunt. Women will hunt 8–11 a.m., and Youth noon–3 p.m. Hunters must be Hunter Education certified and have attended the pheasant hunt held through Busch Range. Ages 11–15 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin February 13.)

## Basic Shotgun

March 19 • Wednesday • 6–8 p.m.

March 20 • Thursday • 6–8 p.m.

(Ages 12 and up)

This program will teach the basics of shotgun shooting. The clinic will be held on Wednesday at the August A. Busch Conservation Area regional office classroom where we will go over safety, actions, choosing a shotgun, chokes, stance, and much more. Thursday we will go to the range for live-fire practice. Ages 12–15 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin February 19.)

## Map and Compass

March 22 • Saturday • 9 a.m.–noon

(Ages 11 and up)

In today's world of electronic gadgets, many people don't know the easy map and compass skill which requires no batteries or satellite signal. This is a good skill to know if you become lost in the outdoors. This program will teach you how to properly read maps and use a compass. Our program will begin in the August A. Busch Conservation Area regional office classroom and then proceed outside to see if you can find some marked locations without the use of today's modern conveniences. Dress for the weather. Ages 11–15 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin February 29.)

## Turkey Calling Techniques

March 26 • Wednesday • 6–8 p.m.

(Ages 11 and up)

New to turkey hunting or want to learn how to call this elusive bird? This program will teach the different types of turkey calls and how to use them effectively. Ages 11–15 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin February 26.)



From I-64/40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 5 miles. The area entrance is on the south side of Hwy D.

### HOURS:

December 1–March 31

Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday: 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

April 1–November 30

Monday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday: 10 a.m.–4 p.m. and Tuesday: 2–8 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **636-441-4554** to register Monday through Friday 8 a.m.–5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.





# Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/271](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/271)



From I-44 east take the Watson Road exit and turn left on Geyer. Cross over the bridge and turn left on Cragwold Road. Follow one mile to the entrance.

## HOURS:

Building: Tuesday–Saturday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Area: Daily: 8 a.m.–8 p.m. DST  
8 a.m.–6 p.m. CST

Programs are free. Call **314-301-1500** to register. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

## Snakes!

March 6 • Thursday • 1–2 p.m.

(Ages 3–6)

At this time of year most snakes are still in their overwintering homes waiting for spring to arrive. Let's become snake experts as we discover why these animals are so unique and important. Live animals will be on hand for touching, and fun activities will help us to imagine life as a snake. (Reservations begin February 20.)

## Scout Discovery Table: State Symbols

March 8 • Saturday • 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.  
(All ages)

This is a self-guided discovery table. Check out the many natural objects that are symbols representing the state of Missouri. The activities apply toward the Brownies *Celebrating Community Badge*, Wolves *Your Flag* (Achievement 2d), and Bears *What Makes America Special?* (Achievement 3e). (Registration is not required.)

## Remarkable Raccoons

March 18 • Tuesday • 9:30–11 a.m.

(Ages 6 and up)

Raccoons are easy to recognize, with their masked faces and striped tails. Many people think they're cute, but sometimes they can become a nuisance. If you see one, it will probably be at dusk, when they may come out to look for food. Raccoons are remarkable for their resourcefulness, adaptability and intelligence. Come have fun learning more about them. (Reservations begin March 4.)

## Build a Bluebird House

March 21 • Friday • 6–7:30 p.m.

(Families)

Soon the bluebirds will be looking for a place to build their nests. Partner with these beautiful creatures by building a bluebird house to take home and mount. You will be helping yourselves as well by inviting these natural bug zappers into your yard. While you are here, learn the important role of bluebirds in our ecosystem. Weather permitting, we will take a hike to hopefully spot some live examples. (Reservations begin March 7.)



## Cunning Canines

March 25 • Tuesday • 9:30–11 a.m.

(Ages 7 and up)

Did you know that our family dogs have close relatives in the wild? Missouri's red foxes, grey foxes, and coyotes spend their doggy lives in the great outdoors. People call them smart ("clever as a fox," "Wile E. Coyote"), and it's true. They are so good at adapting to changing conditions that some of them manage to survive in our spreading metropolitan areas. Which one catches mainly mice and hides many of them for later? Which one is a superb tree climber? Which one has group howls at night? (Reservations begin March 11.)

## You and Me under the Canopy

March 26 • Wednesday • 10–11 a.m.

(Ages birth–8)

Meet in the nature center lobby at 10 a.m. for a nature adventure. Make sure to dress for the weather because we won't be in the building long! Everyone will hike with the naturalist to a special place in the forest and enjoy a nature story under the canopy. Siblings are welcome. In case of inclement weather, the program will be shortened to 30 minutes. (Reservations begin March 12.)

## Conservation Day Camp helps kids discover nature.

Conservation Day Camp is coming in June. Applications are due in April.

Be sure to check the April issue of *Conservation Connections* for camp details and application form.

# Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/271](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/271)



Quail by Tom Bose

## Powder Valley March Hallway Exhibit

*Wildlife of Missouri*  
*Original Artwork by Tom Bose*

Since retiring from the Missouri Department of Conservation, Tom Bose has pursued his lifelong passion for wildlife art in watercolors. Tom draws inspiration for his subjects from the *Conservationist* magazine, hikes along the Katy Trail, and walks around his 35 wooded acres in Miller County. Through his artwork, Tom hopes to inspire everyone to get out and explore the stunning beauty and colors of Missouri's flora and fauna.

## Forest Park Office

5595 Grand Drive, St. Louis, MO 63112 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/10254](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/10254)



From I-44 take Kingshighway north to West Pine Blvd, turn left. Follow West Pine to Lindell, turn left. Continue on Lindell past Union Drive to Cricket, turn left. Take first right onto Grand Ave. The visitor's center is on the right.

### HOURS:

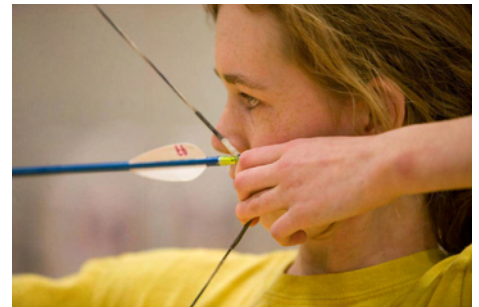
Monday–Friday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **314-877-1309** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

### Outdoor Explorer: Archery

March 18 • Tuesday • 10 a.m.–3 p.m.  
(Ages 9–13)

Start the morning off discovering how mammal identification and tracking are essential to archers. Archery teaches you discipline, concentration and resilience. Not to mention, it's a great sport either indoors or outdoors. Once you familiarize yourself with the bow and can shoot the arrow, an archery skills challenge will begin. Are you in? This program meets at the Forest Park hatchery and educational fishing lakes. Participants should bring a sack lunch, water bottle and dress to be outdoors for the day. (Reservations begin February 4.)



### Outdoor Explorer: Fishing

March 19 • Wednesday • 10 a.m.–3 p.m.  
(Ages 9–13)

Let's go fishing! It's all about fish today: casting, fish identification, water monitoring and yes, of course, fishing. Spend the morning learning the particulars. After lunch relax and see which bait is working best. This program meets at the Forest Park hatchery and

educational fishing lakes. Participants should bring a sack lunch, water bottle and dress to be outdoors for the day. (Reservations begin February 4.)



# Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

801 Strodtman Road, St. Louis, MO 63138 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/298](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/298)



From I-270 north, take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side.

## HOURS:

Building: Wednesday–Friday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Saturday–Sunday: 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

Area: One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset except authorized activities.

Programs are free. Call **314-877-6014** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

## Amphibian Night Hike

March 8 • Saturday • 6:30–8 p.m.

(All Ages)

Discover the unique life cycle of amphibians, and along the way you're also likely to hear an amazing chorus! We'll identify several frogs and toads by their unique songs. Bring your flashlight and dress warmly as we explore the wetlands of Columbia Bottom Conservation Area. (Reservations begin February 15.)

## Scout Day Sampler

March 22 • Saturday • 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

(Girl and Boy Scouts)

Let's be adventurous! Join scouts of all ages to explore Columbia Bottom and discover nature. Visit our displays, go for a hike, and more! Pack a lunch for a special picnic with a naturalist who will answer your questions and discuss environmental careers. Let us know if you are looking to achieve a certain badge. We may be able to help! Dress prepared to go outdoors and get ready to have a great time. (Reservations begin March 8.)

## It's That "Tine" of Year!

March 9 • Sunday • noon–3 p.m.

(Ages 8 and up)

It's time to get excited for this year's shed season! Come on out for the fourth annual shed hunt at Columbia Bottom Conservation Area and learn all about the highly sought after and much elusive antler. You will learn what they are, how they grow, what they are used for, and most importantly, how they make like the snow and melt away into the landscape. This "tine" only falls once a year, so don't miss it! (Reservations begin February 23.)



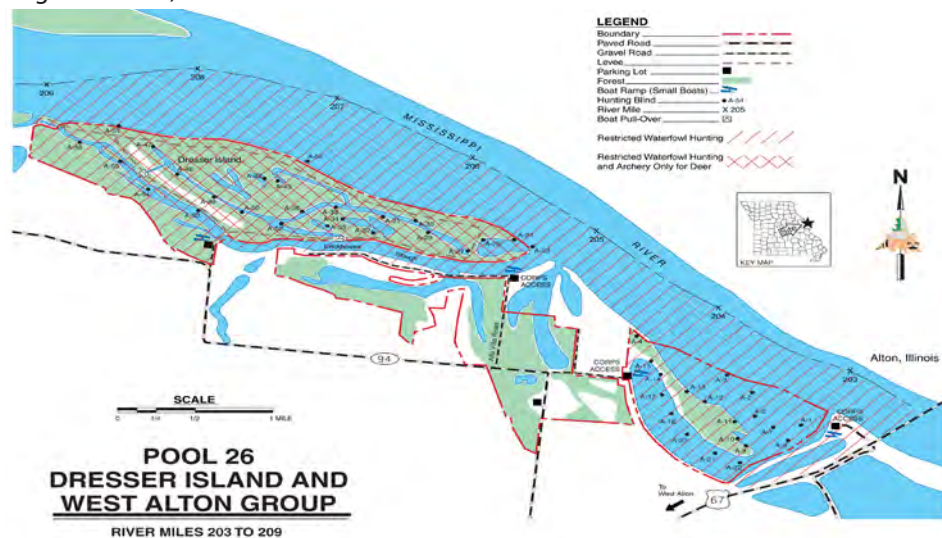
Antler shed

## Dresser Island Pelican Hike

March 15 • Saturday • 9 a.m.–noon

(Adults)

Conservation makes Missouri not only a great place to hunt and fish, but also gives us the opportunity to enrich the quality of life by discovering nature. Dresser Island on the Mississippi River is a great place to discover pelicans, eagles, and other spring migrants. Hike with us to the northern end of the island where the pelicans congregate. Watch for ducks, eagles, hawks, gulls, herons, and trumpeter swans along the way. Dress for the weather. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them. Viewing scopes will be provided. We will walk up to 4 miles. (Reservations begin March 1.)



# August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/300](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/300)



Purple martin house

## Become a Purple Martin Landlord

March 8 • Saturday • 9:30–11 a.m.  
(Ages 14 to adult)

Bird feeders are great, but have you ever thought of providing birds a home? Purple martins are spectacular birds whose behavior has changed over the ages. They have moved from cliff side nests to be close to humans for protection, and they need your help to find a home. We will learn the techniques and equipment needed to help purple martins survive. Join the growing community of "Purple Martin Landlords" for a unique connection to birds and nature. (Reservations begin February 21.)

## Sunset Hike – Timberdoodles and Spring Peepers

March 8 • Saturday • 5–8:30 p.m.  
(Adults)

March 15 • Saturday • 6–9:30 p.m.  
(All Ages)

Experience the sounds of nature in early spring. Listen and watch for "timberdoodles" (American woodcock birds) performing their spectacular aerial courtship displays as the sun sets over the prairie. Hike past woodland ponds and listen for small but powerful spring peeper frogs calling to hopeful partners. Effort = Easy to Moderate: 3.2 mile hike over mostly flat gravel. Potential cool weather will make the hike more Moderate. (Reservations begin February 21.)

## What "Stories" Are Flying Through Your Backyard?

March 15 • Saturday • 9 a.m.–noon  
(Adults and Families Ages 12 and up)

Who was recently visiting Cuba? Who constantly defends their female partner? Who uses a "shovel" on their face to find food? Inside learn fascinating stories of migratory bird survival and techniques to identify them with mounted examples, then outside using spotting scopes. Meet your wild neighbors and discover new connections to their amazing lives as they travel through your backyard. Program held at B.K. Leach Conservation Area, just 10 minutes from Elsberry, MO in Lincoln County. (Reservations begin February 28.)

## Busy as a Beaver – Homeschool Special

March 20 • Thursday • 9:30–11 a.m.  
(Ages 7–12)

How do beavers do what they do? Cutting down trees and building lodges and dams is usually the work for heavy equipment... or one amazing mammal! Beavers have unique adaptations for survival and are the reason that St. Louis was established over 250 years ago. There were almost no beavers left in Missouri just 100 years ago, but good conservation efforts have brought them back. (Reservations begin March 6.)



Tree chewed by beaver



From I-64/40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on D for approximately two miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D.

### HOURS:

Building: Monday–Friday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Area: Daily: 4 a.m.–10 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **636-441-4554** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

## Orienteering for Turkey and Mushroom Hunting

March 29 • Saturday • 12:30–4:30 p.m.  
(Families Ages 10 and up)

There is no trail to follow on this two -three mile, off-trail hiking experience at the August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area! Learn to use map, compass, and GPS for navigation on your next turkey or mushroom hunt. Practice finding fixed landmarks, marking hunting spots or your mushroom paradise while off-trail. Effort = Easy to Moderate: Two to three miles over gentle hills. Briars and thick vegetation are present but can be avoided. (Reservations begin March 14.)



# Rockwoods Reservation

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/272](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/272)



From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road.

## HOURS:

Building: Monday–Friday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Area: Sunrise to one-half hour after sunset except authorized activities.

Programs are free. Call **636-458-2236** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

## Busy as a Beaver – Homeschool Special

March 18 • Tuesday • 9:30–11 a.m.  
(Ages 7–12)

How do beavers do what they do? Cutting down trees, building lodges and dams is usually the work for heavy equipment... or one amazing mammal! Beavers have unique adaptations for survival and are the reason that St. Louis was established over 250 years ago. There were almost no beavers left in Missouri just 100 years ago, but good conservation efforts have brought them back. (Reservations begin March 4.)

## Build a Bluebird House

March 22 • Saturday • 10–11:30 a.m.  
(Families)

Play your part in helping our state bird, the eastern bluebird, survive. Experience nature up close as you watch adult birds raise their young in a house that you've personally built just for them! (Reservations begin March 7.)



Bluebird house building

## Amphibian Night Hike

March 26 • Wednesday • 7–9 p.m.  
(Ages 8–12)

As the sun goes down, frogs and salamanders come out. Be prepared to get muddy as we search for these cool critters. Please dress for the weather and bring a flashlight. Effort = Moderate: natural and paved surface hiking at night. (Reservations begin March 12.)



## Spring Hike: Engelmann Woods Natural Area

March 29 • Saturday • 9–11 a.m.  
(Ages 10 and up)

Experience one of the last remaining examples of old-growth forests along the Missouri River. Look for spring wildflowers and birds in early spring migration. Engelmann is located three miles east of Labadie on Route T, just 30 minutes from Rockwoods. Effort = Moderate: natural surface hiking with some steep forested hills. (Reservations begin March 14.)

